



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Arizona Adult Education Professional Learning Surveys

The Arizona Department of Education, Adult Education Services administered on-line professional learning surveys to Adult Education Administrators, Instructors, and GED Examiners throughout the state. The survey was designed to collect baseline information on: Adult Education Program and GED Testing Center operations; instructional frameworks; professional learning practices, and demographics for Adult Education and GED Testing professionals employed in state funded programs and testing centers in Arizona.

A total of 42 program administrators from 33 state-funded Adult Education Programs completed the Adult Education Administrator Professional Learning Survey containing 112 questions. Results from the administrator survey indicated that:

- Of the 37 individuals who submitted a response, 100% of administrators participate in professional learning activities outside of their AE Program
- Of the 37 individuals who submitted a response, 46% select professional learning activities by self-interest
- Of the 29 participants who submitted a response, 72% indicated they participate in listserves and/or blogs related to adult education

A total of 183 adult education instructors completed the 75-questions on the Adult Education Instructors Professional Learning Survey. Results from the instructor survey indicated that:

- Of the 183 individuals who submitted a response, 84% complete professional learning activities outside of their adult education programs
- Of the 153 individuals who submitted a response, 46% indicated they select professional learning activities based on self interest
- Of the 183 participants who submitted a response, 14% regularly participate in blogs or listservs related to adult education

39 GED Examiners from 35 GED Testing centers completed a GED Examiner Professional Learning Survey with 53 questions. Results from the GED Examiner survey indicated that:

- Of the 39 participants who submitted a response, 74% would like to learn more about how to support the success of GED examinees

- Of the 39 participants who submitted a response, 69% would like to learn more about collaborating with Adult Education staff
- Of the 39 participants who submitted a response, 56% administer assessments in testing centers other than the GED Test

Implications for Arizona Adult Education

The Arizona Department of Education has adopted the National Staff Development Council Standards for Professional Development, and has mandated that all state funded K-12 schools, charter schools, and adult education programs align all professional development to these Standards. www.nsdcc.org

Staff development standards provide direction for designing professional development that ensures educators acquire the necessary knowledge and skills. Staff development must be results-driven, standards-based, and job-embedded. Standards were developed based on these three guiding questions:

- What are all students expected to know and be able to do?
- What must teachers know and do in order to ensure student success?
- Where must staff development focus to meet both goals?

The data collected will be used to a) gain a better understanding of the current professional learning practices and perceptions for administrators, instructors, and GED testing professionals in Arizona, b) provide valuable information for determining professional learning activities and initiatives for state leadership planning that align to the NSDC Standards, and c) establish baseline information to evaluate the impact of professional learning in Arizona adult education to increase student learning.